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MONDAY
OCTOBER 26, 1953

I went out early this morning and shot [redacted] clay pigeons at Meudon. I think I have improved considerably since my first visit there.

Martin Herz came to see me with the draft of a telegram he proposes to send on the French political situation. He now thinks it extremely improbable that the Laniel Government will bring EDC to a vote until the new President of the Republic has actually entered into [redacted] office. This would seem to betoken a change of attitude in Embassy reporting and to bear out the warnings on this subject contained in our own telegram which caused such agitation in Embassy circles last week. The truth of the matter is that no one who has aspirations for the presidency of the Republic wishes to grasp the hot potato of EDC or to make more than the minimum of public pronouncements on this controversial topic until/his/ [redacted] personal political ambitions have been satisfied or proved illusory.

I had a haircut, then saw Bob Richardson and his successor Colonel Kunze. Bob has been the SHAPE representative to the Interim Committee of EDC for some years, and is now being assigned to other duties. He has been a great help to us and I am extremely sorry to have him leave.

We have a whole flock of other American Army, Navy and Air Force officers attached to us for somewhat similar duties. Unfortunately, until [redacted] recently none of these colonels, lieutenant colonels, or those of similar naval rank spoke either French or German and therefore were on the whole ineffective. As seems often to be characteristic of our armed forces, they send six men to do the work of one really competent individual. If an Army officer is assigned to a task which lies largely within the domain of Army responsibilities, it seems inevitable that the Navy and the Air Force will demand similar representation for their own appointees. I am glad I do not have to grapple with the problem of wastefulness and inefficiency in our armed forces. When I was in the Embassy it was quite

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evident that the attaché contingents of the three branches of the service were grossly overstaffed. They were assigned for intelligence purposes, and for the most part simply collected handouts and gossip. Nor could they have done otherwise without prejudicing their status with a foreign government. The whole system ought to be reformed and a few competent men should replace those hordes of officers who are the victims not of any shortcomings on their own part but of the system.

Tommy and I had lunch together in the canteen, afterwards I saw Dudley Diggs of the Baltimore Sun. He has been commissioned to write twenty or thirty articles on present-day Western Germany. I found him interesting.

André Visson spent an hour with me talking about his recent activities on the Continent. He thinks EDC and EPC will eventually pass.

Tonight we went out to Marne-la-Coquette for dinner with the Gruenthers. Peggy and Harold Talbott, Secretary of the Air Force, Mrs. and Admiral Radford, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Mrs. and General Twining, Member, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Department of the Air, Laurie and Isabel Norstad, the Cort Schuylers and the John Hughes, together with some of Admiral Radford's advisers, were there.

After dinner we had a discussion over the article which broke this morning in the Herald Tribune, following apparently a similar piece by Scotty Reston in Washington regarding the possible withdrawal of some American ground troops from Europe. It seems this matter, long under discussion in the National Security Council, had leaked out. It has caused consternation abroad. John Hughes returned to Paris only today. He had seen President Eisenhower on the subject the day before yesterday, and the President gave him authority to make an adequate statement to the NATO Council for the

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secret use of the members. However, the situation has become additionally complicated since Hughes saw the President because of the wide publicity given this issue. It was suggested tonight that perhaps Radford should make a statement. I counselled against this, believing it preferable that the President himself, who will certainly be queried on this point at his next press conference, would be the best man to lay, so far as it is possible, this ghost. I said also that if any such action were taken within the next few months we might as well forget a German military contribution for a long time to come and reconcile ourselves to a chaotic situation even in regard to NATO. Gruenther, Norstad, and Hughes were emphatic in the same sense. Talbott and Radford spoke of the great expense of maintaining American ground forces abroad as compared with the expense of so doing in the United States, but I was not convinced [redacted] they had considered the broader implications involved.

Al, as usual, gave Evangeline some engaging toys to take back to the children, one of whom - David - is [redacted] ill with bronchitis.

It was an interesting but at the same time a discouraging evening.

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